

claims of the mandatory system's proponents, it is highly unlikely an efficient system of mandatory electronic health records can be established by the Government.

Many health technology experts have warned of the problems that will accompany the system of mandatory electronic medical records. For example, David Kibbe, a top technology adviser to the American Academy of Family Physicians, warned President Obama in an open letter late last year that existing medical software is often poorly designed and does a poor job of exchanging information. Allowing physicians to opt out provides a safety device to ensure that physicians can avoid the problems that will inevitably accompany the government-mandated system.

Madam Speaker, allowing patients and providers to opt out of the electronic medical records system will in no way harm the practice of medicine or the development of an efficient system of keeping medical records. Instead, it will enhance these worthy goals by ensuring patients and physicians can escape the inefficient, one-size-fits-all government-mandated system. By creating a market for alternatives to the government system, the opt-out ensures that private businesses can work to develop systems that meet the demands for an efficient system of electronic records that protects patients' privacy. I urge my colleagues to stand up for privacy and quality health care by cosponsoring the Protect Patients' and Physicians' Privacy Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U COAST PRESERVATION ACT

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawaii between Kapao'o Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

Late last year, the National Park Service issued a reconnaissance report that made a preliminary assessment of whether the Ka'u Coast would meet the National Park Service's demanding criteria as a resource of national significance.

The reconnaissance survey concluded that "based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

Although under significant development pressure, the coastline of Ka'u is still largely unspoiled. The study area contains significant natural, geological, and archeological features. The northern part of the study area is adjacent to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of noteworthy geological features, including an ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the National Park Service has expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green sand beaches as well as a significant

number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (at least half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orange-black damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins also frequent the area. The Ka'u Coast also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawaii.

The archeological resources related to ancient Hawaiian settlements within the study area are also very impressive. These include dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs, water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through the study area.

The Ka'u Coast is a truly remarkable area: its combination of natural, archeological, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as its spectacular viewpoints, are an important part of Hawaii's and our nation's natural and cultural heritage. I believe a full feasibility study, which was recommended in the reconnaissance survey, will confirm that the area meets the National Park Service high standards as an area of national significance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDITH BISHOP

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judith Bishop, who is retiring as Executive Director of the Fort Worth & Tarrant County YWCA at the end of May, 2009.

The YWCA of Fort Worth & Tarrant County offers programs at three different facilities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The programs provide various services and promote increased financial growth, leadership, education and training opportunities for women. These facilities also provide safe housing, child care, crisis intervention, and social services transitionally homeless women.

Ms. Bishop has served as the Executive Director of the Fort Worth & Tarrant County YWCA for twenty years. During her time as Executive Director, Ms. Bishop has shown continued dedication to providing community service and helping those in need. Judith has been persistent in her mission to ensure that all children, regardless of circumstance, have the same opportunity to be successful in life.

Madam Speaker, it is with great appreciation that I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Judith Bishop. I salute Ms. Bishop for all of her hard work and altruism. I am confident that her contributions to the YWCA will touch lives for years to come. It is an honor to represent Judith Bishop and the YWCA of Fort Worth and Tarrant County in the 26th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MERCURY-FREE VACCINES ACT OF 2009

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing an important piece of legislation with my colleagues Mr. SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BURTON, and Mr. ACKERMAN that will protect infants and young children from mercury, a known neurotoxin, in vaccines. This legislation builds on the policy recommendations issued in July 1999 by the Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. That policy proclaimed "[The] Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and vaccine manufacturers agree that thimerosal-containing vaccines should be removed as soon as possible." Mercury is well established as a neurotoxin and is particularly harmful to the developing central nervous system. Given that mercury remains in some childhood vaccines and that some infants are likely to receive mercury-containing flu vaccine in the upcoming flu season this bill puts in statute definite timelines for the elimination of mercury from vaccines to eliminate this exposure in children and reduce this exposure in adults. It is incumbent upon us to ensure the immunizations we provide our children are free from harmful neurotoxins, which is why I proudly introduce this legislation.

#### HONORING RICHARD C. PROTO

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Richard C. Proto, former Director of Research for the United States National Security Agency. A great civil servant to our nation, Mr. Proto was born and raised in Connecticut, and he attended New Haven public schools growing up. He played with the Wilbur Cross 1958 New England High School basketball champions and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Mr. Proto went on to receive his Master's degree in mathematics from Boston College in 1964 and joined the NSA following graduation, where he remained for 35 years. During his time with the NSA, Mr. Proto received the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. After his retirement in 1999, he remained an advisor to the intelligence community, the national laboratories, and the Institute for Defense Analysis at Princeton, until his death in July of 2008.

In a formal ceremony on May 18, 2009, the United States NSA dedicated its Symposium Center to Richard C. Proto, in honor and recognition of his dedicated service to the agency. During the ceremony, Mr. Proto was praised by his former colleagues and recognized for his creation of the still-relied upon "Proto Algorithm." Mr. Proto's family was present and participated in the ceremony. Family members included his brother, Neil